

Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring and Modeling Program for the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Quarterly Update Report – January 2010

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Overview

This update is a summary of activities since the previous status report of October 2009 on the implementation of the Refuge's Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring and Modeling Program. A project overview, and other detailed information about the program can be found at: http://sofia.usgs.gov/lox_monitor_model/. The primary objective of this overall program (Brandt et al. 2004) focuses on providing information for use in ecological management of the Refuge (e.g., USFWS 2007a, b).

The Refuge's monitoring component of this program also addresses one of the Consent Decree Principals recommendations (17 December 2003):

B. Enhancing Monitoring of the Refuge

Design and implement an enhanced monitoring program to improve spatial and temporal understanding of factors related to phosphorus dynamics.

The Refuge's modeling component of this program also addresses several of the Consent Decree Principals recommendations (17 December 2003):

C. Modeling of the Refuge

- 1. Develop a water quality/hydraulic model for the Refuge with a phosphorus cycling component.*
- 2. Evaluate issues associated with phosphorus loads and transports within the L-40 and L-7 canals.*
- 3. Develop and track a simple phosphorus mass-balance model for the Refuge.*

Information Availability

Through collaboration with USGS, information from the Refuge's Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring and Modeling Program has been made available on the USGS' SOFIA web site at: http://sofia.usgs.gov/lox_monitor_model/.

Final data for monthly samples through May 2006 are publicly posted on DBHYDRO by the SFWMD at http://my.sfwmd.gov/dbhydroplsql/show_dbkey_info.main_page. Data for June 2006-December 2009 are posted on the Technical Oversight Committee's web site at https://my.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/pg_grp_sfwmd_era/pg_sfwmd_era_techovercommittee. This report includes information from samples collected through December 2009.

Water Quality Data Analyses Update

Primary efforts for this quarter involved exploring mechanisms to continue translating information from the program to aid in Refuge management decisions, and working on the program's Annual Report.

Monitoring Update (October 2009 – December 2009)

Sampling of the enhanced water quality monitoring network (**Figure 1**) occurred at 37 stations in October, 34 stations in November, and 33 stations in December 2009 (**Table 1**).

Total phosphorus data available to date for January 2009 to December 2009 are presented in **Table 1**. Maps of stations where samples were collected for October 2009 through December 2009 are presented in **Figures 2-4**.

Conductivity sonde deployment information for January 2009 to December 2009 is presented in **Table 2**.

Modeling Update

During the fourth quarter of 2009, the Refuge modeling team continued efforts to finalize model versions. Efforts continued on documentation of model development, use, and appropriate application. Initial develop of hydrologic performance measures was undertaken.

Next Steps

The next steps for this program include additional efforts on the Annual Report, and additional model development and application.

References

- Brandt, L.A., Harwell, M., Waldon, M. (2004) Work Plan: Water Quality Monitoring and Modeling for the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge: 2004-2006.
Prepared for the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. April, 2004. 33 pp.
- USFWS. (2007a) A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge - Enhanced Monitoring and Modeling Program – 2nd Annual Report – February 2007. LOXA06-008, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Boynton Beach, FL. 183 pp.
- USFWS. (2007b) A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge - Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring and Modeling Program – 3rd Annual Report – October 2007. LOXA07-005, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Boynton Beach, FL. 116 pp.
- USFWS. (2009) A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge - Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring and Modeling Program – 4th Annual Report – July 2009. LOXA09-007, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Boynton Beach, FL. 106 pp.

Table 1. Total phosphorus data (ppb) available for January 2009 – December 2009 from the Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring Program for: (a) marsh, and (b) canal stations for the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Graphical representation of station locations are shown in Figure 1.

a) Marsh stations

Marsh Station	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09
LOXA101	9	3	-	-	-	32	9	20	11	10	8	9
LOXA102	10	-	-	-	-	9	U	-	9	6	7	-
LOXA103	11	-	-	-	-	10	U	20	10	12	9	8
LOXA105	9	3	-	-	-	28	6	23	19	16	13	11
LOXA106	-	-	-	-	-	21	U	19	11	15	8	7
LOXA107	-	-	-	-	-	13	12	-	17	5	-	-
LOXA108	-	-	-	-	-	5	4	-	7	4	-	6
LOXA109	9	3	-	-	-	12	U	15	8	U	8	4
LOXA110	3	-	-	-	-	3	6	14	9	U	5	11
LOXA111	6	-	-	-	-	4	U	14	7	U	6	U
LOXA112	8	3	-	-	-	12	U	15	19	U	6	5
LOXA113	3	-	-	-	-	5	6	14	11	U	4	17
LOXA114	5	3	-	-	-	5	U	13	8	U	4	U
LOXA117	8	3	-	-	-	31	13	24	12	5	11	9
LOXA118	9	3	U	-	-	7	21	16	6	4	10	4
LOXA119	9	3	4	-	-	8	4	15	5	6	8	5
LOXA120	30	3	3	9	-	2	U	14	5	U	6	27
LOXA122	62	3	-	-	-	22	15	26	9	5	9	9
LOXA124	4	3	13	-	-	37	13	21	18	10	9	13
LOXA126	12	3	-	-	-	15	12	18	12	U	11	8
LOXA127	-	-	-	-	-	10	5	21	19	U	8	5
LOXA128	3	-	-	-	-	2	U	33	7	U	4	-
LOXA130	7	3	-	-	-	17	13	17	12	9	17	12
LOXA131	7	3	-	-	-	5	9	17	4	U	14	7
LOXA133	-	-	-	-	-	140	16	-	37	25	56	19
LOXA134	11	3	-	-	-	29	7	20	16	3	24	10
LOXA136	9	3	-	-	-	51	30	25	26	15	-	13
LOXA137	16	3	-	-	-	27	8	21	14	6	15	9
LOXA138	17	-	-	-	-	7	13	44	8	U	6	9
LOXA139	-	-	-	-	-	14	5	13	9	6	6	-
LOXA140	9	-	-	-	-	20	12	18	13	11	10	9
LOXA141	8	3	U	-	-	12	5	22	10	8	15	8
MAX	62	3	13	9	0	140	30	44	37	25	56	27
MIN	3	3	3	9	0	2	4	13	4	3	4	4

U indicates that compound was analyzed, but the concentration was below the minimum detection limit.

Table 1 cont.

b) Canal stations

Canal Station	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09
LOXA104	22	10	32	30	30	60	42	44	47	27	37	30
LOXA115	20	4	25	19	11	26	64	41	43	26	24	28
LOXA129	11	21	40	44	34	130	33	80	42	25	50	28
LOXA132	12	24	37	37	58	130	30	77	57	36	46	31
LOXA135	14	21	42	33	45	130	61	61	43	36	57	40
MAX	22	24	42	44	58	130	64	80	57	36	57	40
MIN	11	4	25	19	11	26	30	41	42	25	24	28

U indicates that compound was analyzed, but the concentration was below the minimum detection limit.

Table 2. January 2009 – December 2009 conductivity sonde deployment information, separated by transect, for the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. X = data collected from sonde deployment during that month. Graphical representation of station locations are shown in Figure 1.

Site ID	2009											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
LOXA104	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LOXA105	X		X		X		X		X		X	
LOXA106	X		X		X		X		X		X	
LOXA107	X		X		X		X		X		X	
LOXA108	X		X		X		X		X		X	
LOXA111		X		X		X		X		X		X
LOXA112		X		X		X		X		X		X
LOXA113		X		X		X		X		X		X
LOXA114		X		X		X		X		X		X
LOXA115	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LOXA116		X	X		X		X		X	X		X
LOXA117		X	X		X		X		X	X		X
LOXA118		X	X		X		X		X	X		X
LOXA119		X	X		X		X		X	X		X
LOXA120		X	X		X		X		X	X		X
LOXA126		X		X		X		X		X		X
LOXA127		X		X		X		X		X		X
LOXA128		X		X		X		X		X		X
LOXA129	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LOXA130	X		X		X		X		X		X	
LOXA131	X		X		X		X		X		X	
LOXA132	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LOXA133	X		X		X		X		X		X	
LOXA135	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LOXA136	X		X		X		X		X		X	
LOXA137	X		X		X		X		X		X	
LOXA138	X		X		X		X		X		X	
LOXA139	X		X		X		X		X		X	
LOXA142	X	X	X		X		X	X		X		X
LOXA143		X		X		X		X		X	X	X
LOXA144		X		X		X		X		X	X	X
LOXA145		X		X		X		X		X	X	X
LOXA146		X		X		X		X		X	X	X
LOXA147	X	X	X	X		X	X		X		X	
LOXA148		X		X		X		X		X	X	X
LOXA149		X		X		X		X		X	X	X
LOXA150		X		X		X		X		X	X	X
LOXA151	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LOXA152	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LOXA153	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
I-8C	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		X
LOX04	X		X		X		X		X		X	
LOX06		X		X		X		X		X		X
LOX07		X		X		X		X		X		X
LOX08		X		X		X		X		X		X
LOX09		X		X		X		X		X		X
LOX10		X		X		X		X		X		X
LOX15		X		X		X		X		X		X

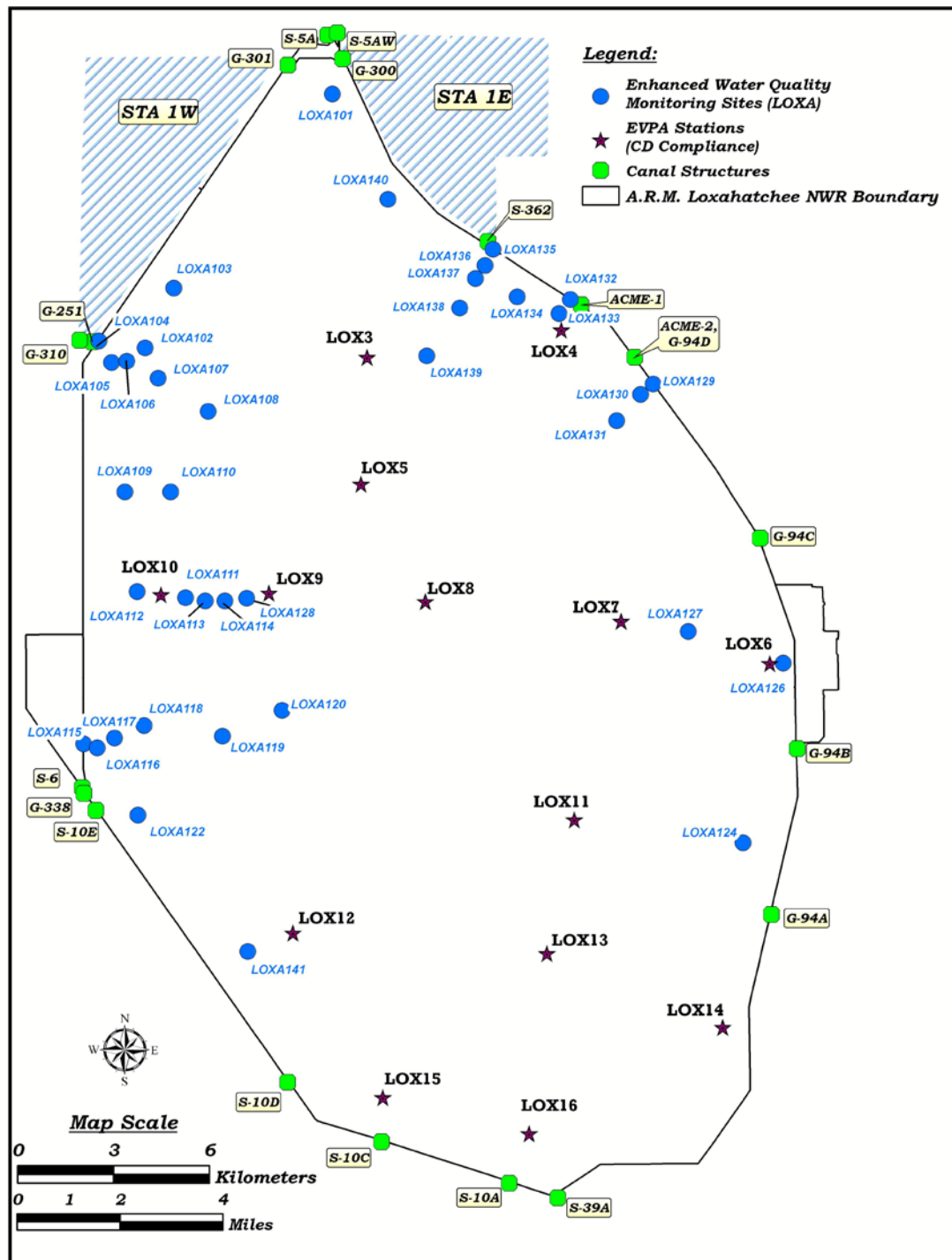


Figure 1. Location of Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring network stations (LOXA###), in relation to Consent Decree compliance stations (LOX##), for the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

Figure 2. October 2009 map of total phosphorus sample collections from the Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring and the EVPA stations in the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. A primary reason that a station is not sampled is that it has less than 10 cm of clear water column representative of that area.

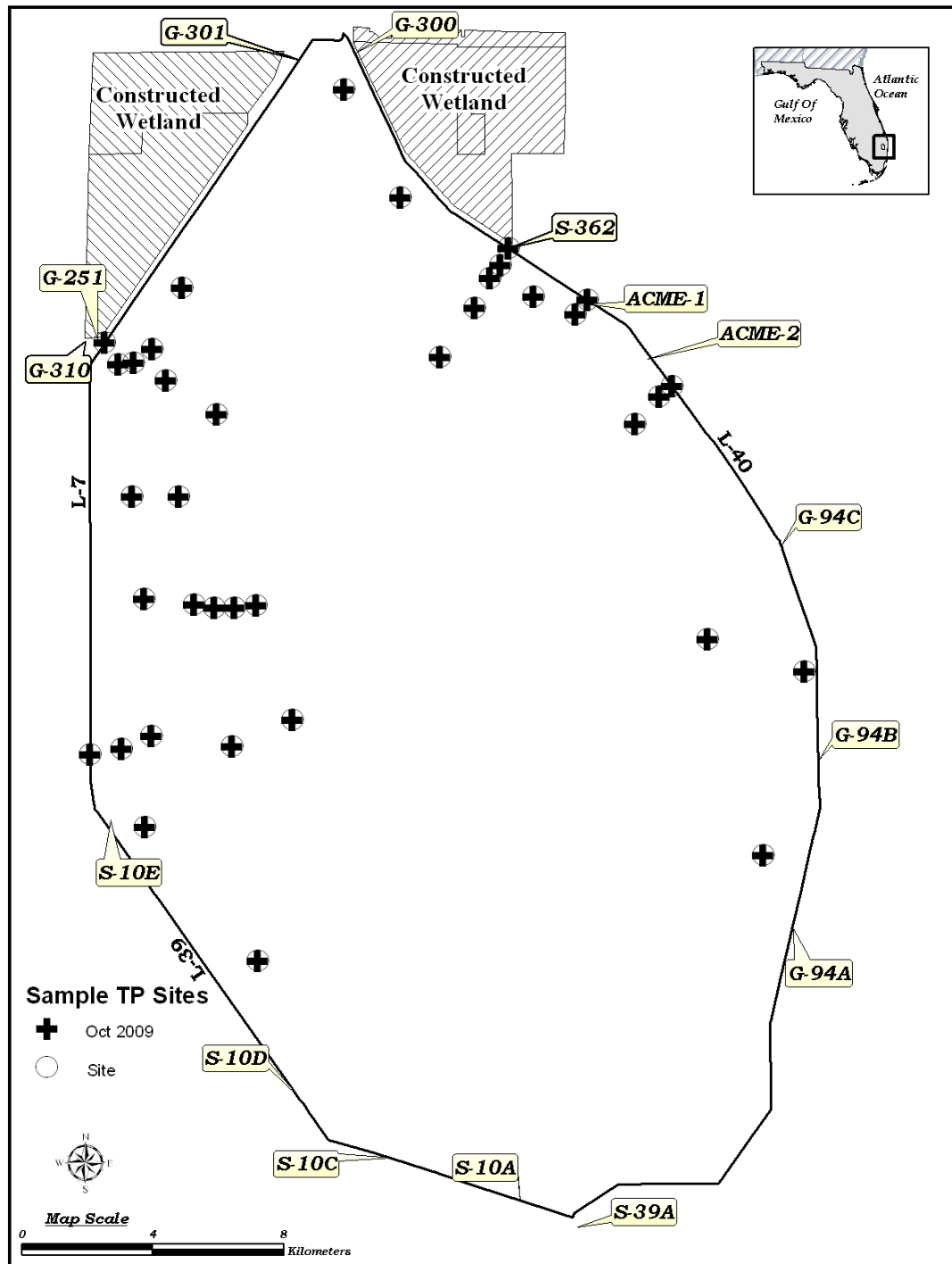


Figure 3. November 2009 map of total phosphorus sample collections from the Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring and the EVPA stations in the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. A primary reason that a station is not sampled is that it has less than 10 cm of clear water column representative of that area.

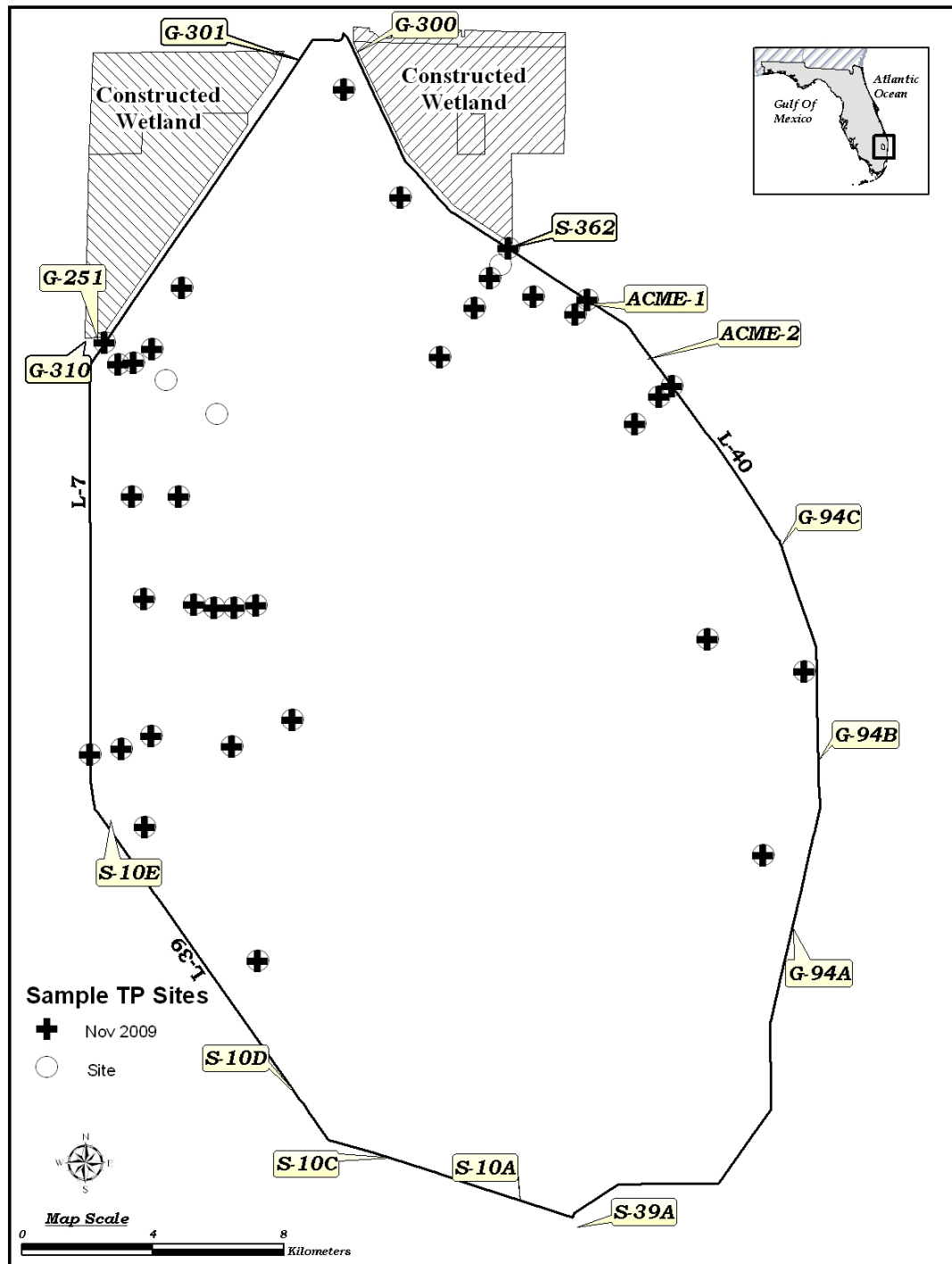


Figure 4. December 2009 map of total phosphorus sample collections from the Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring and the EVPA stations in the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. A primary reason that a station is not sampled is that it has less than 10 cm of clear water column representative of that area.

